of Kandhamal district, giving Scheduled Tribe status to the "Kui" speaking Panas. The members of various tribal communities have been resisting this demand, and had resorted to agitational programmes on the eve of Christmas.

The immediate cause arose on 24.12.2007 when some sections of the Hindus protested against the erection of arches by the Christians as part of their Christimas celebrations, the Police intervened and made efforts to contain the situation.

Extreme change in weather patterns

*428. SHR1MATIJAYABACHCHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Meteorological Department has studied the extreme changes reflected in the weather patterns in the northern and other parts of the country this year;

(b) whether any observations have been made on the causes of extreme wheather or the trends to come; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been studying the trends of the important wheather parameters and also constantly monitoring the occurrence of extreme wheather events over various parts of the country. Data pertaining to the period 1901—2005 suggests that *annual mean temperature* for the country as a whole has risen to 0.51°C over the period. A study, which focuses on monsoon season, clearly shows that though mean monsoon rainfall remained stable (without any increasing or decreasing trend) over the Indian sub-continent, the frequency of occurrence of extreme rain events has increased about 1% per year during past 50 years.

These trends may be explained in the backdrop of global warming and increasing trend in the mean temperature of earth over the past 50 years. Increase in air temperature increases the mositure holding capacity through the amplification of instability arising from small local disturbances. In the coming decades, increasing trends of extreme weather events are likely to increase for most of the parts of India. Some of the important weather events of this year are given in the Statement *(See* below).

The excess rainfall during March, 2008 over South Peninsula was due to enhanced activitiy of the easterly waves over the equatorial Indian Ocean. The sea surface temperature and wind anomalies over the equatorial Indian Ocean observed during the month were favourable for such excess rainfall activity over South peninsula. This kind of rainfall activity has been observed in the past also. However, the amount of rainfall received over South peninsula during the month of March, 2008 was unprecedented.

Determining whether a specific, single extreme event is due to a specific cause is difficult as (i) Extreme events are usually caused by a combination of wheather factors and (ii) A wide range of extreme events is a normal occurrence even in an unchanging climate (Intergovernmental Pannel on Climate Change—4th Assessment Report).

Statement

Details of important weather events of this year

(A) Details of stations recording lowest temperatures during January & February

SI. No	Station	2008 Observations		Previous Record	
		Minimum Temperature	Date/month	Previous record	Date of record
1	Patiala	-0.9	24 January, 2008	0.0	17 January, 1962
2	Ranchi	32	1 January, 2008	4.4	17 January, 1974
3	Jamshedpur	4.8	2 January, 2008	5.0	5 January, 1963
4	Kota	1.3	26 January, 2008	1.8	11 January, 1967
5	Naliya	0.4	7 February, 2008	2.5	7 February, 1974
6	Ranchi	3.5	2 February, 2008	4.3	7 February, 2008
7	Kolhapur	8.8	9 February, 2008	9.3	13 February, 1961
8	Harnai	132	9 February, 2008	13.8	11 February, 1950

(B) State-wise (Southern Peninsula) monthly total rainfall (mm) during March, 2008 vis-a-vis previous years

State	Actual	Normal	% Departure	Record rainfall Since 1875	Previous Record
Kerala	216.4	38.0	469	All time record	128.1 in 1946
TamilNadu	175.8	19.5	801	All time record	83.5 in 1944
Karnataka	1272	72	1666	All time record	53.4 in ' 1984
Andhra Pradesh	91.1	10.0	811	Second highest	92.2 in 1944
South peninsula as a whole	126.9	13.9	- 812	All time record	70.0 in 1944

(c) Particular Stations in South peninsula that received record monthly rainfall

Station (sub division)	Rainfall in mm	
	March, 2008	Previous record
Hyderabad (Telengana)	166	114(1944)
Ramagundam (Telengana)	123	72(1951)
Ongole (Coastal A.P.)	102	60(1951)
Kakinada (Coastal A.P.)	789	167(1967)
Mangalore (Coastal Karnataka)	289	50(1963)
Gadag (Interior Karnataka)	223	65(1945)
Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)	537	297(1947)
Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)	342	71(1968)
Pamban	276	148(1938)
Tiruchirapalli	88	87(1976)
Kochi	284	91(1970)
Thiruvananthapuram	314	184(1946)

(D) Station-wise details of all time record of 24 hour rainfall

Station	Rainfall ('in mm)	
	March, 2008 (Date)	Previous record (date, year)
Kanyakumari	81(23)	58(30,1975)
Kochi	80(16)	71 (7,1971)
Tuticorin	119(14)	91(31,1970)
Kodaikanal	126(15)	107(29,1947)
Karwar	50(26)	17(15,1954K
Bangalore	95(16)	51(10,1911)
Thiruvananthapuram	84(23)	80(16,1946)
Ramagundam	72(24)	39(5,1970)

(E) Monthly Mean Maximum Tempeiratures over the stations in North India

Station Name	Actual Temp. (°C) (monthly mean)	Departure (°C) (monthly mean)	Record	Record Highest Year of Record)
1	2	3	4	5
Hissar	35.3	5.4	1 (highest)	35.3(2008)
New Delhi (AP)	33.4	43	2(2nd highest)	34.3(1953)
Amritsar AP	31	4.5	3	31.7(1953)
Patiala	31.6	4.7	5	332(1953)
Dharamsala	25.1	4.3	1	25.1(2008)
Shimla	19.9	5.3	1	19.9(2008)

1	2	3	4	5
Jammu AP	30.6	4.9	3	31.2(2004)
Srinagar	19.8	6.1	1	19.8(2008)
Banner	37.7	3.7	3	38.6(2004)
Bikaner	35.9	3.9	4	36.6(2004)
Ganganagar	34	5	3	35.0(1953)
Jaipur AP	35.1	4	2	35.5(2004)
Jaisalmer	363	3.9	2	37.1(2004)
Gwalior	35.5	3.4	5	36.6(1953)

Opening of new technical institutes in the country

*429. SHRIB.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to open 400 new technical institutions in the country to meet the demand of skilled staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter alia* including those which are proposed to be opened in the fast industrializing States of Orissa and Jharkhand;

(c) whether Centre has promised to fund the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his Independence Day Speech 2007 announced: "We will soon launch a mission on Vocational Education and Skill Development, through which we will open 1600 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Polytechnics, 10,000 new vocational schools and 50,000 new skill development centres. We will ensure that annually, over 100 lakh students get vocational training—which is a four fold increase from today's level. We will seek the active help of the private sector in this initiative so that they not only assist in the training but also lend a hand in providing employment opportunities".

The setting up of the proposed National Skill Development Mission is under process.

Review of FDI policy

*430. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy to boost foreign capital inflows;

(b) what changes are expected to boost the same which peaked to $ 16 billion through last fiscal year; and